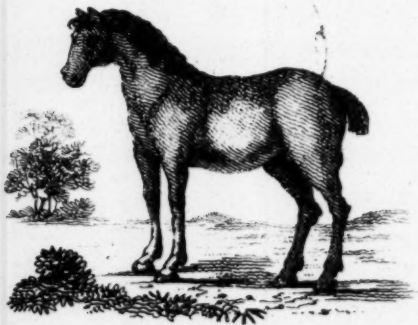


Ox.

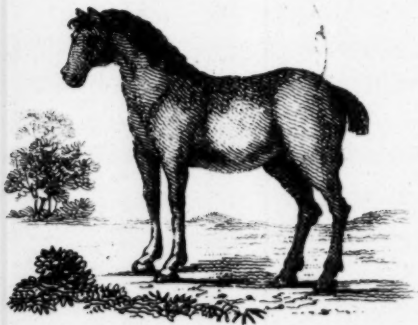
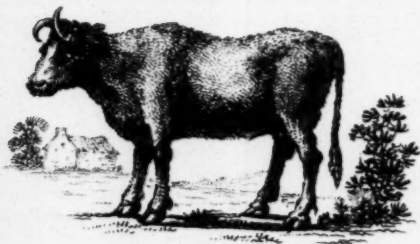
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HORSE.

Ox.

1



HORSE.

A  
NATURAL HISTORY  
OF  
*BIRDS AND BEASTS;*  
SHEWING  
THE CHARACTER AND PROPER-  
TIES OF EACH ANIMAL.

Illustrated with  
COPPER PLATES.

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1800.





# NATURAL HISTORY.

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## THE COCK.

WHEN the Cock was first made domestic in Europe is uncertain, but it is generally supposed that he came first from Persia. No animal in the world is more courageous than the Cock when opposed to his own species. In India, China, and all over the East, cock-fighting is the sport and amusement even of Princes; but in England it is declining daily; and it is certainly an ungenerous and cruel amusement.

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THE HEN.

THE maternal assiduities of the Hen are become almost proverbial. When her chickens are old enough to provide for themselves, she abstains from all the food that her young can swallow, and she will boldly fly at every creature that she thinks is likely to injure them. In this domestic creature we have a striking instance of the goodness of our Creator, for while her young supplies our tables with the most delicate food, her eggs contribute to restore to health the sickly and the weak.

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THE TURKEY.

THIS fowl, which is now perfectly naturalized among us, was unknown before the discovery of America. It was first imported into France in the reign of Francis I. and into England under Henry VIII. Young Turkies in this country are among the tenderest of birds; the female lays about eighteen or twenty eggs, and is sufficiently assiduous in providing her young with insects, which they prefer to all other food.

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THE DUCK.

THE tame Duck is the most easily reared of all our domestic birds, as the instinct of the young leads them directly to their favourite element. Ducks require very little charge in keeping, as they live mostly on lost corn, snails, &c. for which reason they are very useful in gardens. When they sit, they require no attendance except sprinkling a little barley or refuse corn near them, which will prevent their straying. To fatten them, give them for three weeks any kind of corn or grain, and plenty of water.

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## THE PEACOCK.

PEACOCKS were first introduced into Europe from the Asiatic Indies. When it appears with its tail expanded, none of the feathered creation can vie with it in elegance and magnificence, but the harsh scream of its voice diminishes the pleasure received from its brilliancy, while its insatiable gluttony tend still more to alienate our attachment from the only merit which it can claim, its incomparable beauty.

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THE PHEASANT.

NEXT to the Peacock, the Pheasant is the most elegant of the winged tribe; it is not only beautiful to the eye, but is also a peculiar delicacy for the table. It lives wild and untamed among us, and loves to inhabit the thickest woods, and most unfrequented parts of the forest.

In a wild state the hen Pheasant lays from eighteen to twenty eggs in a season; but, in a state of captivity, she seldom produces more than ten.

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THE SWAN.

THE Swan is the largest of British birds; in old ones the whole plumage is white, but in young ones ash-coloured. The Swan lays seven or eight white eggs, which she is near two months in hatching; its chief food is herbs growing in the water, roots and herbs growing near the margin, and insects. No bird perhaps makes a more awkward figure out of the water, or has the command of such beautiful attitudes when on that element.

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## THE NIGHTINGALE.

THIS bird visits England in the beginning of April, and leaves it in August; it builds its nest early in May, and lays four or five eggs of a brown nutmeg colour; their nest is mostly found in a close thick-set hedge, a little above the edge of the bank, and generally where briars, &c. grow very thick. They seldom sing near it, lest it should be discovered by that means. Young Nightingales should not be taken till they are almost as well fledged as the old ones.



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THE THRUSH.

THE Thrush is a curious bird both for the great variety of its notes, and for singing nine months in the year. She lays five or six eggs of a bluish green, with small black spots at the end, which are hatched about the middle of April.

The young ones are to be fed every two hours with a mixture of raw meat, bread, and bruised hemp seed. When grown up, feed them with any kind of fresh meat, raw, boiled, or roasted : they must have a pan of fresh water twice a week to wash themselves.

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THE GOLDFINCH

Is a native, and common in every part of this island both for its singing and beauty; it flies in flocks, and delights to feed upon seeds of thistle, hemp, dock, &c. It begins to build in April, on the branches of an apple-tree, where the bloom and leaves intercept the sight. The Goldfinch has six or seven young ones at a time, three or four times in a summer. When young, they should be fed on bread and water strained, and boiled in a little milk, with the addition of some flour of Canary seed.

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## THE BLACKBIRD

Is reckoned the largest song-bird found in England. This bird is remarkable for its early going to nest, as it has young ones generally in the month of March. Its nest is easily discovered, as it is mostly found in a hedge near the ground, before the bushes are clothed with leaves. She lays either four or five eggs of a bluish green colour, full of dusky spots. The young ones may be taken at ten days, and fed with any lean fresh meat, minced very fine, with bread a little moist.

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CANARY BIRD, .

THESE birds came originally from the Canary Islands, but we have them only from Germany, where they are bred in great numbers. They most commonly begin to pair in April, and to breed in June and August. About the end of March they should be put together in a small cage, and though they disagree a little at first, they will soon become reconciled. They are usually about two or three days making their nest, and the female generally lays five eggs, which are hatched in about 14 days.

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THE SKY-LARK.

THE Sky-Lark is a long-lived and healthy bird, and sings at least eight months in the year. It is so apt to take the notes of other birds, that to prevent his rambling in his song, you must bring him up from the nest, under some fine Song-Lark. Its nest is commonly found in corn fields or pasture ground; she lays four or five earth-coloured eggs full of brownish spots; and they breed two or three times a year, but the first brood are best.

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THE COMMON PIGEON.

THE tame Pigeon, and all its beautiful variety, have their origin from one species—the Stock Dove; that name signifying its being the stock or stem from whence the other domestic kinds have proceeded. From the common Pigeon many elegant kinds are produced, which are distinguished by names expressive of their several properties; such as tumblers, carriers, jacobines, croppers, pouters, runts, turbits, owls, nuns, &c. They have a very piercing sight, and can hear at a vast distance.

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## THE OWL.

THERE are many sorts of Owls, but the White or Barn Owl is the most domestic.— Owls are distinguished from all other birds by their eyes, which are better adapted for the purposes of darkness than of light. Like tigers and cats they have the power of discerning objects, at a time when we should conceive it to be totally dark.

The note of the owl is truly hideous, but so great is the utility of this bird, it will destroy in the same space of time more mice than six cats.

## THE OX,

OR CATTLE OF THE COW KIND.

THE flesh of an Ox is beef, the horn produces combs, handles for knives, and stable lanterns; candles are made of the fat; shoes and boots of the hide; and the hair is mixed with mortar; chips of the hoof and parings of the hide make carpenters glue. The Cow gives milk, of milk we make cheese, from milk we skim cream, and of cream we make butter. The flesh of a Calf is veal; vellum is made of his skin, and books are bound with the same.



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THE HORSE.

THE beauty and usefulness of the horse entitles him to be ranked foremost in the history of the brute creation ; he is generous, docile, spirited, and yet obedient ; he is very tractable, and distinguishes his companion, and neighs to him, and will remember any place at which he has once stopped. The skin of the Horse is used for making collars, traces, and other parts of harness, the hair of the mane make wigs, and that of the tail, fishing lines, and chair bottoms.

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THE ASS.

THE Ass in proportion to its size is stronger than the horse, and is humble, patient, and quiet. It is remarkably attached to its young, and its scent is so acute, that they are capable of smelling their driver at a great distance. The milk of the Ass is of great virtue in restoring health and vigour to weak constitutions, which alone ought to entitle them to better treatment than they generally experience; for why should an animal so patient, and so useful, be treated with cruelty and contempt?

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THE DOG.

THE Dog, next to the Elephant, is the most friendly to man of all quadrupeds. No animal is so much the companion of man as the Dog, and it seems beyond the power of ill-usage to wean his affections from human nature. In most Dogs the sense of smelling is very keen; he will hunt his game by the scent, and in following his master, will stop where the roads cross, and with his nose to the ground try which way the scent is strongest. His courage, and fidelity, render him endearing to man.

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## THE SHEEP.

A SHEEP is a timid animal, yet an Ewe will face a dog when her lamb is by her side ; every Ewe knows its own lamb, and every lamb the bleating of its Ewe even among thousands. There is no part of this animal but what has its particular use ; their flesh is mutton, the wool is manufactured into cloth, flannel, and worsted stockings ; the skin is leather, the entrails make fiddle-strings, the dung is of the greatest utility for manure.

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## THE GOAT.

THE common Goat is one of those domestic animals whose value is overlooked, merely because it is exceeded by the sheep.—It endures all kind of weather, and seems to thrive in every climate; its natural propensity to climbing, makes them fond of situations inaccessible to other animals.—

Goat's milk is sweet, nutritive, and medicinal, and peculiarly grateful to invalids. The skin, the hair, and the horns, are all applied to beneficial purposes,

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## THE HOG.

THE Hog is the most impure of all animals, he is greedy, and of a sluggish disposition; he is naturally stupid and inactive, and, if undisturbed, will spend half his time in sleep; the thickness of his hide, and the coarseness of his hair, render him insensible to blows; he is restless at every change of weather, and greatly agitated when the wind is high. The flesh of the Hog is pork, the lard is used for plaisters and pomatums, and the bristles for brushes.

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## THE STAG.

THE Stag is very delicate in its food; they breed in May, when they carefully conceal their young in the most secret thickets. If the old horns do not fall off without, they rub them against a tree. Their new horns are so tender that the Stag walks with his head very low to prevent them from rubbing against the branches of trees. The skins are made into leather, the horns make handles for knives, and spirit of hartshorn is extracted from them.



## THE HARE.

THIS timid and defenceless animal supplies us with a delicacy for our table, and covering for our heads; the fur being manufactured into hats.—

The eyes of a Hare are very large and prominent, which enables them to receive the rays of light on all sides; its long ears are the means of receiving notice of danger from a great distance; it is very difficult to discover a Hare sitting, as its colour is nearly that of the ground.



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## THE RABBIT.

THE figure, food, and natural properties of the Rabbit are very similar to that of the Hare. The fruitfulness of the Rabbit far exceeds that of the Hare, as they will sometimes have young ones seven times in the year, and eight each time. The burrow which they make in the earth is done with such ingenuity, as not to be excelled by the most experienced miner. Its skin forms a very considerable article in the manufacture of hats.

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## THE FOX.

THE Fox sleeps much during the day, but the night is its season of activity, when it roams about in search of its prey. It will eat flesh of any kind, but prefers that of hares, rabbits, poultry, and all kinds of birds; those that reside near the sea coasts will, for want of other food, eat crabs, shrimps, mussels, and other shell-fish. A Fox resembles, and is somewhat of the same nature as a dog, but very different in his manner from that faithful animal.

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THE CAT.

CATS see best in the gloom, and what is more singular, the pupil of a Cat's eye, in a strong light, is contracted to a mere line, but by night it spreads into a large circle. Their teeth are better formed for tearing their prey than for chewing food ; they will crush a mouse and swallow it very speedily. Cats dislike water, cold, and bad smells ; they love perfumes ; they hunt by their eye, they lay in wait and spring upon their prey, then sport with and torment the animals before they kill them.



## THE SQUIRREL.

THIS little animal is equally admired for the neatness and elegance of its form, as for its liveliness and activity; it is taught to receive with freedom the most familiar caresses from the hand that feeds it.—The Squirrel makes its nest of moss or dry leaves, in the hollows of trees, and its food consists of fruits, almonds, nuts, acorns, &c of which it accumulates great stores for winter provision. The tail of this animal shelters him occasionally from heat or cold.

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## THE OTTER.

THIS is an amphibious quadruped, and furnished with membranes or webs between the toes, to assist it in swimming: it makes its way faster in water than on land, and can overtake the fish on which it preys, in their own element. The Otter inhabits the banks of lakes and rivers, and is extremely destructive to the fishes, killing more than they can eat. Otters are frequently hunted with dogs for amusement. Its usual length is about two feet, and its tail half as much.

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THE HEDGE HOG

THE Hedge Hog spends the greatest part of the day in sleep ; it prefers small thickets, hedges, or bushy ditches for its retreat ; it is a harmless creature, is incapable and unwilling to injure, and all its precautions are directed for its own defence. As soon as it perceives itself attacked, it draws back and concentrates all its vulnerable parts, rolls itself into a kind of ball, and then patiently submits to every provocation, for its own security.





*ASS.*

2



*DOG.*



*SHEEP.**GOAT.*



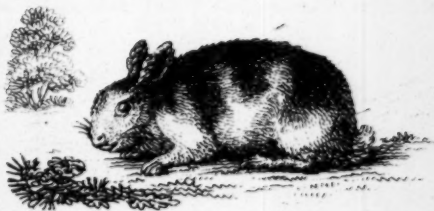


HOG.



STAG.

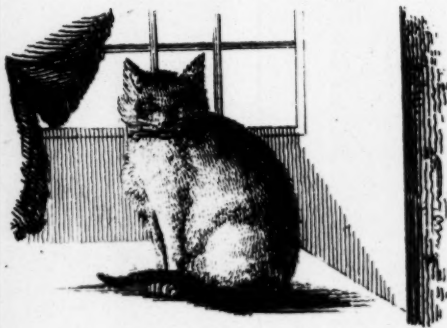
HARE.



RABBIT.



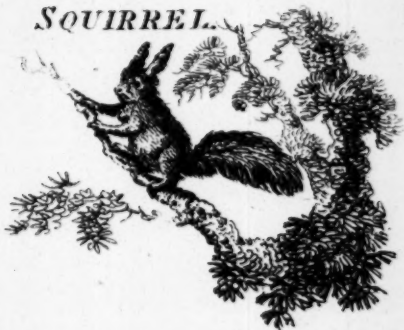


*FOX.**CAT.*



*SQUIRREL.*

7



*OTTER.*





*HEDGE HOG.*

8



*COCK.*

1



*HEN.*





*TURKEY*

2



*DUCK.*



PEACOCK.

3



PHEASANT.





SWAN.

4



NIGHTINGALE.

THRUSH.

5



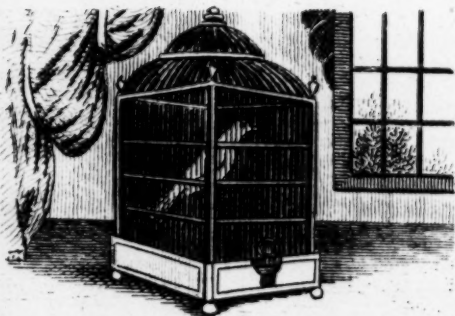
GOLD FINCH.





*BLACKBIRD.*

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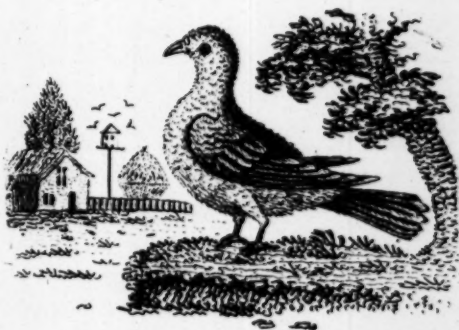


*CANARY BIRD.*



SKY LARK.

7



PIGEON.





OWL.

8



